

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), IS
SUBJECT: VP MONDALE VISIT/BACKGROUND AND SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS
FOR THE SDE BOKER VISIT

1. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND FOR SDE BOKER TRIP:

--LOCATED 31 MILES SOUTH OF BEER-SHEVA ON THE NORTHERN EDGE OF THE
DESOLATE BUT PICTURESQUE WILDERNESS OF ZIN, THROUGH WHICH MOSES LED
THE TRIBES OF ISAREL (NUMBERS 20:1-5), SDE BOKER ("RANCHER'S
FIELDS") WAS FOUNDED IN 1952. THE KIBBUTZ WAS A DARING PIONEERING
PROJECT IN THE DESERT, WITH NO ROAD OR WATER SUPPLY, FAR FROM
HABITATION AND SUBJECT TO ATTACK BY NOMADS. IT WAS SETTLED BY
YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN OF DIVERSE BACKGROUND. TODAY, SDE BOKER IS
AN AGRICULTURAL VILLAGE OF 300 WITH ORCHARDS AND LIVESTOCK..
A YEAR AFTER ITS FOUNDING, THE 67-YEAR OLD DAVID BEN-GURION
JOINED THE KIBBUTZ, REFLECTING HIS DEEP INTEREST IN DEVELOPMENT
OF THE NEGEV DESERT AND AS AN EXAMPLE TO OTHERS. HE WAS
CALLED BACK INTO GOVERNMENT FROM 1955-63. AFTER WHICH HE RETIRED
TO SDE BOKER.

--A SEVEN MINUTE DRIVE SOUTH OF THE KIBBUTZ IS THE SDE BOKER
COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL WITH ABOUT 1,000 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS,
AND THE BEN GURION MEMORIAL AND TOMB SITUATED ON THE EDGE OF A
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DRAMATIC CANYON. AFFILIATED WITH BEN GURION UNIVERSITY, THE
COLLEGE HOUSES THE BEN GURION ARCHIVES.

2. FOLLOWING ARE SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS:

-- (AT KIBBUTZ) VISIT TO SDE BOKER IS PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE SINCE
SDE BOKER EPITOMIZES THE PIONEERING SPIRIT OF THE KIBBUTZ MOVE-

MENT, THE ORIGINAL BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. AS SUCH, THE SUCCESS OF SDE BOKER EXEMPLIFIES THE DETERMINATION OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH THEMSEVLES IN THEIR ANCIENT LAND, AND THE IMAGINATION AND PERSERVERANCE OF THE ISRAELI PEOPLE IN CARRYING OUT THEIR GOAL. WHAT WAS LESS THAN THIRTY YEARS AGO A DESERT WASTELAND, IS NOW THRIVING COMMUNITY, SURROUNDED BY GREEN FIELDS AND ORCHARDS, AND AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER LEARNING IN THE BIBLICAL WILDERNESS. NOWHERE IS THE RESOURCEFUL SPIRIT OF ISRAEL MORE EVIDENT.

--(AT MEMORIAL) IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO HONOR THE MEMORY OF THE MAN WHO REFELECTED IN HIS LIFE SO COMPLETELY THE PIONEER SPIRIT OF ISRAEL, DAVID BEN GURION. AS AN ARCHITECT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL AND ONE OF THE GREAT STATESMEN OF THIS CENTURY, BEN GURION CHOSE TO MAKE HIS HOME HERE, TO MAKE THE DESERT BLOOM WITH HIS OWN LABOR AS WELL AS HIS WORDS. AS AMERICANS WE SHARE AND ADMIRE THE PIONEERING EXPERIENCE, THE MELDING OF PEOPLE FROM ALL OVER THE GLOBE INTO ONE SOCIETY, THE BUILDING OF CIVILIZATION IN THE WILDERNESS. WHEN WE LOOK AROUND US WE SEE THE FULFILLMENT OF BEN-GURION'S DREAM, A DREAM SIMILAR TO DREAMS THAT WE AMERICANS, IN OUR OWN COUNTRY, ALSO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FULFILL.

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